

The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1912.

THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

The principal reason thus far to be drawn from the investigation of the Richmond schools is that they are very excellent schools, being improved so rapidly that a considerable gap has been opened between the training and equipment of the teachers and the demands made upon them by the introduction of a broad and flexible curriculum. The aim of the school authorities is to give the city a very modern, scientific system of preliminary education. In the zeal after such good things, they may have occasionally outrun the possibility of immediate practice. Ends that it has taken other cities ten years to reach cannot be reached here in one. And the efficient teaching of a complicated modern course of study depends upon a teaching staff trained for this purpose.

Light may be thrown on this question by the following comparative figures with respect to the training of teachers in Richmond, Lynchburg and Norfolk. Certificates for teaching are divided into groups according to the preparation required. The first grade is issued to teachers who have completed a high school course, with a year of supplementary instruction; professional certificates are granted after two years of normal work; normal certificates for the completion of a normal course; and collegiate certificates to holders of a college degree. In this city, of 351 white teachers 49 hold collegiate certificates, 1 a normal certificate, 43 professional certificates, and 155 those of first grade. Of 210 in Norfolk, there are 26 collegiate, 2 normal, 63 professional, and 61 first grade. Of 82 in Lynchburg, 25 are collegiate, 19 normal, 26 professional, and 6 first grade. Excluding collegiate certificates, this means in brief that in Lynchburg only 12 per cent. of the teaching staff hold the lowest type of certificate; in Norfolk 50 per cent. hold them, while in Richmond 75 per cent. are of this class.

Furthermore, the greater part of these first grade certificates will expire at the end of the present session. This means the necessity of securing new certificates. It is certainly not the desire of the school board to lose the services of these teachers, who have given their lives to the education of the city's children, and who have experience that no theoretical training can supply. But it should be the aim of the board to raise the standard of the teaching staff as high as possible under existing conditions. To meet this ideal, the teachers must give time and energy, either after hours under direction of the superintendent, or as a summer normal. This new demand upon themselves, and their scanty incomes is a serious practical question with the teachers.

The Times-Dispatch believes the teaching staff of Richmond's schools should be as well trained as those of other cities. It also believes that provision should be made whereby worthy and hard-working teachers can secure this training without assuming onerous burdens beyond their means.

THE THOUGHTS OF T. R.

There can be no question as to the fact that to imagine what are the thoughts of Theodore Roosevelt at this solemn time of self-searching which comes to all men alone in the darkness when they review the day's work is no easy task. To give them courage to go peacefully to sleep, given to imagine Roosevelt sleeping is a hard task. No one ever thinks of him relaxed like an ordinary man, asleep, inactive. It is easier to think of a dynamo sleeping, or a lion, or a perpetual motion. Yet doubtless he finds some time in the strenuous life for a kind of restful and plunging slumber, a slumber of repose, full of broken dreams and warring visions, but he knows he must have a session with his conscience, for however triumphant his eye, or overbearing his self-conceit, the thousand assaults upon his motives, his beliefs and his unworthiness must make some impression upon his indurated conscience. What truths are written on the walls of night or ambitions weighed in the balance of his own soul? Does he ever and himself wanting?

Perhaps he sees himself as a miser, leading all the people into a land of democracy by the guidance of the judicial recall. He may hear a national chorus of rich and poor crying to him out of the wilderness to save them from themselves, because no one has been granted the wisdom and strength for the task. At which thought, the stainless crusader, if he has a remnant of humor, should turn on the pillow, chuckle "Bully," and go to sleep with the proud knowledge that to alone, from all human history, has been nominated as the one man without whose help the race could not make its destined progress. Doubtless he parades in imagination with the other heroes. He may find consolation with Alexander and Caesar and Nero and Bonaparte. He may see Alexander weeping for new worlds, but does he see also the pale ghost of Julius, stalking to him, in his toga the bloody rent, or Nero in a flaming orgy of maddening death, or Napoleon sunk in lethargic memories upon the iron island of St. Helena? We do not think he hears the uproarious populace shouting, "Long live the Emperor!" but he may gather the same portent from echoes of "Oh, you, Teddy!"

A RIGHTEOUS DECISION.

The people of this city justly rejoice in the decision handed down yesterday by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the city of Richmond vs. the Western Union Telegraph Company. The effect of this decision will be that the telegraph company will have to remove some of its poles and wires from the streets, and put its wires underground in such places as the city may see fit to have them so placed. The suit goes back to 1902. The telegraph company refused to lay underground wires, and when the city tried to compel the company to lay such a system the matter went into the courts to be decided finally yesterday. Other telegraph and telephone companies have agreed to put their wires underground, but the Western Union held out to the last. The fundamental issue was the right of a city to order its streets in the interest of public safety and public sightliness. The decision of the Supreme Court is in accord with the best legal authority, and is both just and reasonable. Very important principles were at stake, the decision is of national significance, and The Times-Dispatch congratulates City Attorney H. R. Pollard upon his persistent, able and successful conduct of a case which meant much to Richmond and to all American municipalities.

THE SHORT BALLOT COMING.

A fourteen-foot ballot was used in the New York City primaries the other day. It was long enough to convince many people that the short ballot is indispensable to good government. In many States and communities, if not in all, the Australian ballot is so long that it obstructs the effort to have righteous elections. The long ballot is a brake on election reform. People cannot vote intelligently when they have to go through a long list of candidates, because they have had no time to study the records of candidates and have too little information upon which to act.

Fewer offices should be filled by election; more of them should be appointed with the appointing power vested in the man upon whom responsibility can be fixed and criticism concentrated. Fewer names on the ballot give the voter an opportunity to exercise real discrimination in the interest of good government.

Many cities of considerable size are adopting the commission plan of government, under which a very small body of men is elected and then given plenary appointing power. The same idea is carried out to some extent in our State governments, although in the case of Virginia the principle ought to be far more widely extended. The Washington Times points out that the biggest example of concentration of authority in a limited personnel is the government of the United States. The President selects his Cabinet, and the whole administrative establishment is under his control. In a State government, the Governor is often not allowed to select his department heads, because they are elected by the people or the Legislature. As a result, uniformity and homogeneity of policy is often impossible.

THE NEXT TARIFF GOVERNOR.

It seems strange that in North Carolina, where Democratic politics is always there should be but one Democratic candidate for Governor. The field has been left to Locke Craig, of Asheville, and it seems likely that he will receive the unanimous nomination of the Democrats. Four years ago, Craig was a formidable candidate for the nomination, but Kitchin, the present Governor, won out. By common consent Locke Craig will get the honor. Doubtless he richly deserves it, for he has rendered long and splendid service to the North Carolina Democracy, and is a man of fine abilities and strong aptitudes for political life. He would make North Carolina a fearless and progressive Governor and administer his office for the greater welfare of a great and liberty-loving people, who cling steadfastly to the true principles of democracy.

Another ex-Confederate soldier goes to the United States Senate. The new Senator from New Mexico, Thomas H. Catron, served in the famous Bladsoe Battery with signal bravery. Ten years ago many Confederates were in Congress, but only a few are left now.

Uncle Simpson Pepper says that the smell of fresh-plowed land and new-mown hay isn't half so nice to farmers as it is to poets.

The rising young man in the city and the girl he left behind him are both in favor of this recent letter postage.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

From the Hickoryville Chronicle.

Old Man Stebbins has taken to his bed with a violent attack of misery in the spine of the back and will probably not be able to get around again until the harvest is over next fall. It happens this way every year.

Light and Shade.

The sun shines down benignly, and to live the life is simply grand. The little birds sing in the trees, and happiness is in the breeze. There's not a single unkind word, or peevish sentence to be heard. Men are of cheerful frame of mind, are philanthropic, and are kind. They even give money to their wives. So glad and care-free are their lives—That's when the home team's winning.

Things That Make Life Worth Living.

Learning at 11 o'clock Saturday night that the wrong package of laundry was delivered at your house. Going on a Sunday excursion and having your train sidetracked to let all the freights go by. Getting a letter addressed in feminine handwriting and finding that it contains a bill from the plumber for \$167.50.

According to Uncle Abern.

Leon Higgins and his wife want to give their new baby a name that he will not be ashamed of when he grows up, and they are hesitating between Coy and Percy.

A Cliché.

The saddest man you've ever met; A solemn face you'll never forget. A face that's filled with vain regret. His attic vacant and to let. You'll recognize him, never fret. He is, you can most safely bet. The husband of a suffragette!

Unpardonable.

We can forgive the hair-brained mutt who mumps his tongue at a dog. The bonehead who buys mining stock may have some saving grace; There may be circumstances when we can forgive the goat who takes a woman out to row, and gaily rocks the boat.

Unpardonable.

We may perhaps be slightly with the chump who hands his friend a carefully prepared cigar which shoots sparks at the end. The man who borrows a lawnmower and keeps the thing a week, may have some saving qualities of which we may well speak. But we cannot find one kind word of any sort to say.

About the gink who says: "Old man, you're looking bad to-day."

Voice of the People

Britannia and Columbia, Hail! (A Greeting.)

All hail! Saint George! Saint George's Knights are we, and greet Old England from Columbia's strand! All hail our motherland across the sea!

With loving hearts we clasp Britannia's hand! God save the King! and Hail! Columbia, too! Forever may they add to their renown!

The glories of the Old World and the New! And ne'er on these may fickle fortune frown.

May they—Britannia and Columbia—In friendly bonds united evermore!—United, still to be forever free!

And sway the world aright on sea and shore—

Uniting all the English-speaking race! United all the forces of our life That swifter make the world's progressive pace.

With admiration soon to banish strife! Hail! King of England's vast and great domain! On which the sun is ever seen to shine!

How grand the realm o'er which it sits! A grandeur, though of earth, so near divine!

King, 'neath Australia and Canadian skies, And Africa's and India's burning suns! Where the portending flag of Albion

Our Little Sinner.

The poet he's as sour As pickles or limes; Contrary of times, But whatever mood, Or mood he's in, He's invincible on land and sea!—The conquering nations of all coming years!

Angels one hour, The poet he's as sour As pickles or limes; Contrary of times, But whatever mood, Or mood he's in, He's invincible on land and sea!—The conquering nations of all coming years!

Sometimes we both sign When he's not high, And wonder how could We live if he should Go back to this life! He left for awhile To brighten the earth With mischief and mirth. A desolate home.

Our cot would become, Lord, leave us this joy, Please spare us our boy.

Philadelphia.

Love Unrequited! Ends Life.

Greensboro, N. C., April 1.—Suffering the pangs of unrequited love, Daniel Koonce, a youth eighteen years of age, living near Trenton, Jones county, North Carolina, Sunday afternoon, ended his life by shooting at the top of his head with a shotgun. He left a note stating that his act was on account of a girl with whom he was in love; a love unrequited, he said.

Funeral of Mrs. Andrews.

The funeral of Mrs. Andrews, the nine-year-old boy, who was accidentally shot and killed by a shotgun Sunday morning, was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home of his mother, Mrs. R. W. Anderson, near Robinson, Chesterfield county.

Funeral of Robert.

The funeral of Robert Anderson, the nine-year-old boy, who was accidentally shot and killed by a shotgun Sunday morning, was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home of his mother, Mrs. R. W. Anderson, near Robinson, Chesterfield county.

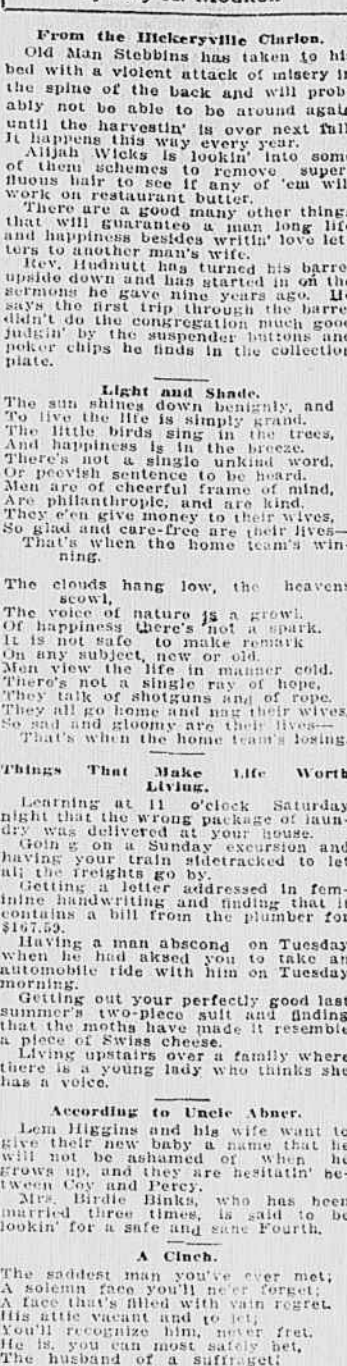
Personal Mention.

The condition of John Latham, who was operated on last week at St. Luke's hospital, is slightly improved.

WHEN DAD WAS A BOY.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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"Aw, that's easy. I can do lots harder ones than that."

News of South Richmond

South Richmond Bureau.
The Times-Dispatch.
109 N. Main Street,
Phone Madison 176.

Because of the uncertainty of the date that Judge R. H. Wells, of the Hustings Court, Part 2, will call for the renewal of the State liquor license, Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Samuel H. Owens, of Washington Ward, is busily engaged in making out the papers. The city license of 1912 has already been paid by each of the twenty-one concerns dealing in ardent spirits.

Reckless Driver Fined.

Sam Lawson, colored, was yesterday fined \$5 and costs in the Police Court, Part 2, by Judge R. H. A. Maurice. Mr. E. G. Hill appeared as the complainant against Lawson. From the evidence it appeared that the negro had carelessly driven into a buggy belonging to Dr. Hill.

Property Again Changes Owners.

For the third time within a month a lot fronting forty-three feet on Hull Street between Third and Fourth has changed hands. The new owner is Clara R. Robins, who purchased the property from Thomas Drummond. The price mentioned in the deed which was offered yesterday for registration in the office of Clerk Walter E. DuVal, was \$10 and other considerations. It is an ideal lot, it is an ideal location for a manufacturing plant, which rumor says, will be built soon.

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Primary in Fayetteville.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Fayetteville, N. C., April 1.—The municipal primary was held here today and resulted as follows: For Mayor, Underwood, 515; Ledbetter, 126. The following were nominated for Aldermen, M. E. Atkinson, J. J. Maloney, C. B. McMillen, Sol. W. Cooper, J. B. Buckingham, R. M. Jackson, J. H. Hightower, T. G. McAlister; for Board of Audit and Finance, J. A. Moore, J. B. Hodge, J. P. McNeill. The election will be held the first Monday in May, but this primary is equivalent to an election, as there will be no opposition.

Petition in Bankruptcy.

W. J. Clark, a telegraph operator, residing at 2024 East Marshall Street, filed a petition in bankruptcy yesterday in the United States District Court. According to the schedule submitted, the total of secured and unsecured liabilities amount to \$6674. The assets are stated to be \$380, and is claimed by the bankrupt under the exemption law.

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